(b) whether there is any proposal to make this land available for cultivation and social forestry;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Total land with the Indian Railways is 4.19 lakh hectare, most of which is located under and on the sides of the Railway lines.

(b) to (d) The present policy is to allow tree plantation (social forestry), and not cultivation, on the vacant Railway land on both Sides of the Railway lines keeping it at a safe distance from the lines. The tree plantation is being done both by the Railway itself and through the assistance of the Forest Department.

Elephant "Mahal"

2799. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that elephant "Mahal" has been banned in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Elephant is a Scheduled animal under Section 49 A of the Wild Life (Protection) Act. Dealing in any captive animals being Scheduled animal is prohibited under Section 49B of the Act.

Plan to check deforestation for shifting cultivation

2800. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plans to check deforestation for shifting cultivation (Jhuming) in tribal areas of North Eastern States; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) what alternative arrangements Government propose to make for the tribals to change, their age-old tradition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Government of India through Ministry of Agriculture has been implementing a scheme for control of Shifting Cultivation in the tribal areas of North Eastern States. Under the scheme, integrated programmes are taken up for reclamation and development of land for settlement of jhumias under regular agriculture, animal husbandry, horticulture and forestry activities. Programmes for subsidiary occupations like cottage industry, poultry, piggery etc. are also undertaken.

(b) It is proposed to launch a Scheme during 8th Plan period for association of tribals and rural poor in regeneration of degraded forests to create sustainable ire-source base for economic activities of these people.

मध्य प्रदेश में सिंचाई वाले जलाशय

2801. श्री शिव प्रसाद धनपुरिया : क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) मध्य प्रदेश में ऐसे कौन-कौन से जलाशय हैं जिनमें पानी के भण्डारण पर प्रतिबंध लगाया गया है ;

(ख) इन जलाशयों की अलग-अलग सिंचाई क्षमता कितनी- कितनी है ;

(ग) ऐसे जलाशयों के डूब वाले क्षेत्र में आने वाले वन क्षेत्र का ब्यौरा क्या है तथा उससे वन सम्पदा को कितना नुकसान हुआ है; और

(घ) इन जलाशयों के माध्यम से होने वाली सिंचाई के लाभों की तुलना में वन सम्पदा को कितनी हानि हुई है ?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमल नाथ) : (क) केवल पटपरा जलाशय में जल भण्डारण पर वन (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1980 के उपबंधों के तहत प्रतिबंध लगाया गया है ।

(ख) जलाशय की सिंचाई क्षमता 405 हैक्टेयर है ।

(ग) और (घ) जलाशय में शामिल करने के लिए कुल 43.3 हैक्टेयर वन क्षत्र की आवश्यकता है, जिनमें 9331 वृक्ष लग हैं, जबकि जलाशय की सिंचाई क्षमता 405 हैक्टयर है ।

Regional museum of natural htnstory at Bhubaneswar

2802. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to set up a regional museum of natural history at Bhubaneswar in Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in setting up the museum; and

(c) the steps taken to expedited the setting up of the museum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The matter is still tinder consideration.

Projects of Madhya Pradesh pertaining to environment

2803. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVI RONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state;

(a) what is the number of projects received from Madhya Pradesh pertaining to environment and forests, pending sanction with Central Government;

(b) what are the reasons for the delay in sanction and whether the Government have received replies to its queries from the State Government within the stipula ted period; and

(c) whether the Central Government propose to empower the State Govern ment to utilise the forest land for the minor works like construction of schools, panchayat office, dispensaries, approach roads and irrigation reservoirs etc, in the Adivasi and other regions having domi nant Harijan and backward Dupulation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) 70 proposals under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and four proposals for clearance from environmental angle are pending in this Ministry as on 30-11-91.

(b) The main reasons for delay in taking final decision in respect of proposals received under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is non-receipt of essential wanting details from the State/UT. Governments within the stipulated pe-riod.

(c) No, Sir.

Vast tracts of land under the 'Zudpi Jungle'

2804. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided that the vast tracts of land under the 'Zudpi Jungle' category in Maharashtra would be handed over to the land banks of Government of Maharashtra so that they may utilise such lands as per their requirements;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether a large number of irrigation projects in Vidarbha which are Still pending environmental clearance would now get clearance; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?